

U.S. Application No. 09/628,397 – Filed: August 1, 2000

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An edge enhancement processing system for modifying image data at certain pixel locations to include gray scale image data so as to reduce jaggedness in the image, the system comprising:

an adjustable threshold device that establishes a current binary pixel value for an incoming ~~current~~ rasterized color separated continuous tone gray level image pixel data in accordance with a thresholding criterion;

an operator accessible input to the threshold device for adjusting a threshold value in the thresholding criterion; and

an edge enhancement image processing device that examines the current binary pixel and neighboring binary pixels in accordance with predetermined criteria for determining adjustment of the current pixel to a gray scale value to reduce edge jaggedness of the image.

2. (Currently Amended) An edge enhancement method for processing image data comprising:

determining an adjustable threshold value in a thresholding criterion in response to an input from an operator;

establishing a current binary pixel value for an incoming ~~current~~ rasterized continuous tone color separation gray level pixel data in accordance with the thresholding criterion that employs the threshold value ;

examining a current binary pixel and neighboring pixels thereto in accordance with predetermined criteria to determine an adjustment of the current binary pixel to a gray scale value to reduce edge jaggedness of the image; and

substituting the gray scale value for the current binary pixel to reduce edge jaggedness of the image.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the image data is color separation image data ~~that has been subjected to under color removal and/or gray component replacement before being transformed into said incoming current gray level pixel.~~

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4. (Currently Amended) An edge enhancement method for processing image data ~~wherein the comprising:~~

~~providing rasterized continuous tone image data is color separation gray level image data that has been subjected to under color removal and/or gray component replacement before being transformed into an incoming current gray level pixel, said edge enhancement method comprising:~~

~~providing an operator adjustable modification of the strength of the gray scale value substituted for the rasterized continuous tone color separation gray level image data incoming current gray level pixel;~~

~~determining an adjustable threshold value in a thresholding criterion in response to an input from an operator;~~

~~establishing a current binary pixel value for an incoming current gray level pixel that employs the threshold value in accordance with the thresholding criterion;~~

~~examining a current binary pixel and pixels neighboring thereto, in accordance with predetermined criteria, to determine an adjustment of the current binary pixel to gray scale value to reduce edge jaggedness of the image; and~~

~~substituting the gray scale value for the current binary pixel to reduce edge raggedness of the image.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the image data is color separation image data that has been subjected to a color transformation process ~~before being transformed into said incoming current gray level pixel.~~

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the adjustable threshold value is determined in accordance with a selection by the operator of a color image processing that includes under color removal and/or gray component replacement.

8. (Currently Amended) An edge enhancement method for processing image data comprising:

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processing image data using under color removal and/or gray component replacement;

rasterizing the image data and providing continuous tone color separation image data; and

adjusting edge enhancement processing of the rasterized continuous tone color separation image data in accordance with whether or not under color removal and/or gray component replacement is used or the extent of such use.

9. (Previously Amended) An edge enhancement method for processing image data comprising:

processing image data using under color removal and /or gray component replacement; and

adjusting edge enhancement processing of the image data in accordance with whether or not under color removal and/or gray component replacement is used or the extent of such use, wherein the adjustment includes adjustment of a threshold value used for comparing image data processed by under color removal and/or gray component replacement.